

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 107

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the legal and regulatory barriers to private investment and entrepreneurship and to propose legislation on such other actions as may be necessary to remove such barriers.

WHEREAS, a prosperous economy depends on job creation through private investment and entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, greater private investment and entrepreneurship are associated with greater economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the unparalleled success of the American economy is the result of private investment and entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, unnecessary legal and regulatory barriers to private investment and entrepreneurship exist, especially in overly prescriptive licensing requirements, excessive regulations, and government preemption of business opportunities; and

WHEREAS, private investment and entrepreneurship are discouraged by unnecessary legal and regulatory barriers, reducing the potential for economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, poverty is an issue of significant public concern; and

WHEREAS, there are significant geographical pockets of poverty, especially in urban areas, in which legitimate economic activity is substantially impeded; and

WHEREAS, various entrepreneurial opportunities that would require little investment are closed to potential low-income entrepreneurs by unnecessary legal and regulatory barriers; and

WHEREAS, the only reliable and sustainable means for reducing poverty is for the poor to climb the income ladder through entrepreneurial activity and employment; and

WHEREAS, by facilitating entrepreneurship by the poor, a means of exit from poverty would be provided for such new entrepreneurs and their employees; and

WHEREAS, increased entrepreneurship and private investment in low-income communities would increase levels of tax revenue, improving the financial condition of governments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee on economic freedom to study and identify the legal and regulatory barriers to private investment and entrepreneurship and to propose legislation of other actions as may be necessary to remove such barriers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 106th General Assembly no later than January 1, 2010, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.